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Indians steal Shanghai fashion show

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Shanghai: Indian clothes cover too much. Perhaps, it will change for Chinese girls, hopes Li Xiao Yue, a 23-year-old Chinese model, soon after walking the ramp in Sabyasachi Mukherjee's trademark collection at the Shanghai Fashion Week.

Li Xiao may be unsure, but Shanghai International Fashion Centre bosses have no such misgivings. Shanghai hosted the first ever show by Indian designers on Thursday as part of the Asia Fashion Blooming section. As Kolkata designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Mumbai-based Nikasha Tawadey and Hyderabad boy Anand Kabra dressed Chinese models in their saris and jackets, it marked a fashion milestone for Indian designers in Shanghai.

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the West. Now, it has reached out to India, too. Echo Yao, representative of the Shanghai International Fashion Centre, says, "In recent years, Indian designers have played an important role on the international stage. That's why we invited three of the best designers to open the show here. They blend the east and the west." The blending,

which comes easily to Indian designers, was unleashed in full force. Thursday's show began with Tawadey's flowing off-white lines and ensembles in reds and yellows. The Mumbai designer, however, admits her pieces are very Indian and eclectic.

Mukherjee is still not sure what to expect from China. "The world wants

to be in China, but I am just here to test the waters. I am not sure how trade relations work out between India and China, but if the people here are keen, we are more than willing to come."

Anand Kabra is more excited. It is important to come first hand and understand the culture, how society has developed and it is essential to figure China out. Kabra's Shanghai collection was inspired by Draupadi and is called 'She was dark, She was blue'.

Sujal Shah, head of fashion, IMG India, says, "This is an exercise in building relationships, a chance to meet our Asian counterparts, the media and interact with the people." Ingrid Yin, executive director, Shanghai International Fashion Center, asserts, "We think there is enough space for India in the Chinese fashion industry." Riva Ganguly Das, consul-general of India in Shanghai, says, "I think local Chinese will find their designs attractive."